

AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read as follows:

GUIDE TUBE FOR A FLEXIBLE PIPE FOR TRANSPORTING HYDROCARBONS

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add a paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. §§ 371 national phase conversion of PCT/FR2004/002639, filed 15 October 2004, which claims priority of French Application No. 0312163, filed 17 October 2003. The PCT International Application was published in the French language.

Please insert the following section heading at page 1, line 4:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following section heading at page 2, line 30:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further special features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from reading the following description of particular embodiments of the invention that are given by way of indication but not limitation, with reference to the appended drawings, ~~in which:~~

Please insert the following section heading at page 4, line 33:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following section heading at page 5, line 8:

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Furthermore, this Figure 1 shows a flared edge 16 surmounting the rectilinear section 12, forming a flange and providing a substantially frustoconical space. This frustoconical space accommodates an eccentric ring 18 that itself has ~~is~~ a frustoconical portion for insertion perfectly in said space. ~~It~~ The ring is produced, for example from steel coated with an organic material capable of protecting it and of reducing the friction coefficient of its surface.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 6 shows a biconical sleeve comprising a central clamp 66 mounted on a tubular member 68 extending symmetrically on either side of said central collar 66 along an axis B of symmetry. The central collar 66 surrounds a median part 70 of the tubular member 68 that itself has an inner surface 69 in contact with the flexible pipe and an outer surface 71. The tubular member 68 extends from the median part 70 on the one hand, so that the inner surface ~~60~~ 69 flares out in order to move away from the axis B of symmetry and, on the other hand, so that its outer surface 71 converges toward the axis B of symmetry.